

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer containing as essential components a 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS), a 20 to 70 wt% adhesive rosin-based resin, a 10 to 60 wt% softener, and a 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component, along with estrogen and/or progesterone as active ingredients, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol.
2. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the estrogen is 17- $\beta$ -estradiol.
3. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the progesterone is norethisterone acetate.
4. (Original) The patch according to claim 1, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20  $\mu$ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200  $\mu$ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.
5. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer comprising
  - a) 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS);
  - [[a]] b) 20 to 70 wt% rosin-based adhesive resin;
  - [[a]] c) 10 to 60 wt% softener;
  - [[a]] d) 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component; and
  - e) an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of estrogen, progesterone or a combination of estrogen and progesterone, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol.

6. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the estrogen is 17- $\beta$ -estradiol.
7. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the progestogen is norethisterone acetate.
8. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 5, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20  $\mu$ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200  $\mu$ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.
9. (Currently amended) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol and comprising
- a) 10 to 30 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS);
  - [[a]] ~~b)~~ 40 to 50 wt% ~~adhesive~~ rosin-based resin;
  - [[a]] ~~c)~~ 20 to 40 wt% softener;
  - [[a]] ~~d)~~ 2 to 10 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component; and
  - e) 1 to 3 wt% estrogen or 2 to 5 wt% progestogen.
10. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the estrogen is 17- $\beta$ -estradiol.
11. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the progestogen is norethisterone acetate.
12. (Previously presented) The patch according to claim 9, wherein the backing is a laminate comprising a 0.1 to 20  $\mu$ m thick polyethylene terephthalate film and a 1 to 200  $\mu$ m thick flexible polymer film, nonwoven fabric or woven fabric.

13. (New) An external patch comprising a backing and an adhesive layer laminated onto the backing, the adhesive layer being free from any alcohol and the adhesive layer further containing as essential components a 5 to 50 wt% styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer (SIS), a 20 to 70 wt% rosin-based resin, a 10 to 60 wt% softener, and a 1 to 20 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone, as a dissolving component, along with estrogen as an active ingredient, wherein the amount polyvinylpyrrolidone is at least 5 times or more the amount of estrogen.